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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 48 | Berkeley, Calif. | February 1966 | Number 2

MINNIE YOUNG REMEMBERED CANYON RANCH

We will all miss Minnie Young, who died at Christmas time. A loyal and active life member of Golden Gate Audubon Society, she came to all of the meetings, and went on the field trips until she became ill about a year ago. She had served on the Golden Gate Board as Editor of *The Gull* (1948-1953) and as Corresponding Secretary (1955-1956).

From the beginning she was a staunch supporter of Audubon Canyon Ranch, to which she gave generously when she was alive. In addition, upon her death she willed $5,000 to the Ranch.

MONTGOMERY MOVIES ON FEBRUARY 10

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Montgomery will present their color film, "Watching Birds with Lillian Montgomery," at the regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society on **Thursday, February 10,** at **7:30 p.m.** in the First Unitarian Church at Franklin and Geary Streets, San Francisco. Birds of the Midwest and the Rockies are included in their film. Mr. Montgomery is President of Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo.

The meeting will be preceded by dinner at 6:30 ($1.50 per person). All profit goes to the Canyon Ranch Fund. Volunteers to help set or clear the tables will be welcome. For dinner reservations please call or write the following **before Wednesday, February 9:** Vi Drescher, 1585-8th Ave., S.F. 22 (LO 6-0742) or Bonnie Smith, 555 Dewey Blvd., S.F. 16 (OV 1-7635). — RICHARD and MARY LEINBACH, *Program Co-Chairmen.*

FIELD TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 5, (as announced in the January *Gull*) to Lake Merced, San Francisco, for the study of land and water birds. Meet at **9:15 a.m.** in the big parking lot north of the lake just off Sunset Blvd. Bring lunch, binoculars, scopes and interested friends. Leader, Miss Aileen Pierson, JU 7-4163.

Sunday, February 20, to Thornton and areas west of Lodi. The main feature of this trip is the spectacular views of sandhill cranes. In addition, ducks, geese, gallinules, and white-tailed kites may be seen on farmlands and adjacent ponds. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** in the town of Thornton, which is reached by turning south from Walnut Grove on the Sacramento River Road, Route 24. Allow about 2½ hours driving time from the San Francisco

Bay Area. The distance to Thornton is about 80 miles. Bring binoculars, scopes, warm clothing, lunch, and interested friends. Leader, Hans Meinhardt, 525-6628.

Saturday, March 5, Bolinas Lagoon in Marin County for the study of water birds. This is a good trip for beginners. Meet at **8:45 a.m.** at Audubon Canyon Ranch, which is about 3 miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway 1. If time and weather permit, we will hike the ranch trails after lunch. Leaders, Dr. Laurence Curl, 526-7004, and Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 931-5257.

YOSEMITE FIELD TRIP, JUNE 3-5

Golden Gate Audubon Society will reserve a group of bungalows and cabins at Camp Curry for two nights: Friday, June 3, and Saturday, June 4. A reservation form with detailed information will be in the March *Gull*. The Reservations Chairman will be Doris Garnick, 3816-14th Ave., Oakland (532-9129).

"THE ESSENCE OF LIFE" — FEBRUARY 9

Dr. G. Clifford Carl, Director of the Provincial Museum of Natural History, Victoria, British Columbia, will come to Berkeley on **Wednesday, February 9** to show us his beautiful film, "The Essence of Life." By means of close-up photography, Dr. Carl will demonstrate how various plants and animals depend upon water for their existence

Bristle flies, honey bees, social wasps, termites, crickets, pill-bugs, and a host of other garden forms obtain moisture in a variety of ways. Intricate food chains involve worker ants which gather "honey-dew" from aphids feeding upon the sap of plants. The aphids in turn are eaten by predaceous insect larvae and by foraging tree-frogs. Plant-animal relationships are revealed in the nest building of the leaf-cutter bee, in gall insects, and in orb-weaving spiders. The lives of the larger forms of wildlife are also regulated by the availability of water. White pelicans must have isolated islands on which to nest and rear their young. Such breeding grounds also support herring gulls which depend upon the pelicans for part of their food.

We construct huge dams to create reservoirs to satisfy our domestic and industrial needs and yet persist in fouling this indispensable resource at every turn. Our past history has largely been shaped by water and our future will be determined by it.

Dr. Carl's special field is marine biology. As a child growing up near the sea in the outskirts of Vancouver he came in contact with a variety of living things and formed a lifelong interest in wild creatures. He was educated at the University of British Columbia and at the University of Toronto, where he obtained his doctorate. For some years he was a member of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, doing field work in shellfish studies and in fresh-water fisheries. Later he joined the staff of the Provincial Museum of Natural History and Anthropology and became

Director in 1942. Museum surveys have taken him to many parts of the province, particularly along the rugged and picturesque coastline which has provided material for his several motion picture films.

Dr. Carl is the author of numerous scientific and popular articles, including guides to the amphibians, reptiles, and fresh-water fish of the province of British Columbia, and has contributed regularly to a weekly newspaper column and a radio program. As an eminent Canadian naturalist and speaker he brings to Audubon Wildlife Film audiences a background of intensive training in the field of natural history and an enthusiastic and contagious interest in living animals.

The "Essence of Life" will be shown in the Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way at Grove St., at **8:15 p.m., Wednesday, February 9.** The doors will open at 7:45 p.m. Anyone who does not have a season ticket for the Audubon Wildlife Films may pay admission at the door ($1.50 for adults and $1.00 for students under 18).

MARCH FILMS — "Stepping Stones to Australia" will be presented by Patricia B. Witherspoon on **Monday, March 7 at 8:15 p.m.** in the Berkeley Little Theatre. The stepping stones are three islands in the Pacific Ocean. This will be the last in the current series of Audubon Wildlife Films. Details will be in March *Gull.*

The Oakland Museum Association will show "Outdoor Yearbook" by Karl H. Maslowski on **Thursday, March 3, at 8 p.m.** in the Oakland Auditorium Theatre. This film includes hummingbirds, eagles, white-tailed deer, time-lapse sequences of blossoming tulip trees, and a sound track of wildlife voices. Tickets are $1.65 for adults and .75 for juniors under 16 and will be available at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office on March 3 (in the evening). Adult tickets may be purchased in advance at Snow Museum, 274-19th St., Oakland, or at Breuner's Box Offices. Proceeds from the film will be used for acquisitions for the Natural Science section of the new Oakland Museum.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Attendance at the AAAS-American Nature Study Society meetings on the Berkeley U.C. Campus after Christmas helped to re-charge our mental batteries for a new year. The methods and accomplishments of park naturalists at all levels were shown: municipal, regional, state and national—with impressive demonstrations of how the U.S. Forest Service has recently joined the interpretive services. Outdoor Education in the public schools had its turn, too, and we were deeply impressed with the results shown where such programs exist, and appalled to realize how few school districts use school camps in California and across the nation. A week at an outdoor education camp changes the average child so much that, apart from nature and ecology ingested, classroom behavior and interest in books and written lessons increase almost incredibly after return to school!

And yet teaching of Conservation and "Human Ecology" (Man vs. his environment) lag woefully behind in California schools and teacher's colleges. Many luckier children exposed to actual nature study and field trips by enthusiastic teachers in elementary grades may never receive a refresher course in junior or senior high or even college level. Fortunately, thousands of East Bay children are exposed to nature and to naturalist guides in Oakland and East Bay Regional Parks, but we must help convince our school people that real "Outdoor Education Camps" in regional parks would aid greatly this fight against "biological illiteracy." Only a new generation of enlightened voters can save us! How about *you* visiting a school and discussing this subject with the teachers or principal as your Conservation Week contribution this March?

Ignorance and indifference to wildlife values and even to the laws we've established to protect them were brought forcibly home to us again during the year-end holidays. Gun-shot cripples ranging from sandpipers to gulls to owls were brought to Lake Merritt, and indignant Auduboners have told us how the Christmas count was interrupted at Bay Farm Island – and elsewhere – by heedless hunters and child gunners. Even before the holidays two surveyors running lines on McCartney Road, Bay Farm Island, for the impending Shoreline Development subdivision counted forty carcasses of illegally killed birds and demanded some action! Most police departments around the Bay view these abuses – like petty litter cases – with tolerant attitudes, and our few State Game Wardens just can't be in so many places at one time. More citizen complaints are in order!

Man's abuse of the land has struck close to home, too, for those who love nature and the trails in our Oakland-Berkeley hill parks. A landowner in Oakland's Woodminster District threatens to chop down his 8,000 sq. feet of redwoods surrounded by park land in Palo Seco Canyon if the City doesn't buy them immediately or trade him the popular Inspiration Point hilltop in Joaquin Miller Park. And the important master plan for Tilden Park development west through Wildcat Canyon is threatened by another landowner who would build apartment blocks in this lovely canyon.

We have just added the "California Tomorrow" organization to our considerable list of conservation memberships, and the reading of several issues of their journal, *Cry California*, has again fired our soul! We recommend a membership for you, too, but if you just can't afford any more affiliations, come to the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, or see Mary Jefferds at Audubon's Conservation Resource Center, Berkeley, and we'll gladly let you read these – and lots more! PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

GROUP RESERVATIONS FOR CANYON RANCH

During February, please make reservations for organized groups to visit Audubon Canyon Ranch through Mrs. Jeanne Price, 7 West Shore Road, Belvedere. Telephone GE 5-1121. After March 1, Mrs. Stanley Ellis will again be in charge of reservations. Her address is 2483 Mar East, Tiburon. Telephone 435-1180.

The ranch will open on March 1. Families or people coming alone or with friends should come on Saturdays or Sundays. Reservations are not needed. Groups, however, do need reservations and are encouraged to come during the week days if at all possible.

We're looking forward to an especially interesting and productive season. Lynn Stafford, who has been employed part time at the ranch through a year's grant by the Golden Gate Audubon Society, will be developing the nature education program.

HELP WANTED

Please help us help you! Our Golden Gate Audubon Society now has over 1200 members. The elected and appointed officers cannot do all the work for such a large group. We would appreciate your help if you could devote some time to working for the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Assistance is needed in clerical work, typing, field trips, etc. Any time you can spare would strengthen our organization and help achieve our objectives. If you are able to become a more *active* member, please phone Warren Larson (525-9149) or any other officer.

NATURE TRAINING CENTER BEGINS SPRING CLASSES

Some twenty Golden Gate members and friends gathered at Aquatic Park in Berkeley on November 17 for open house at the newly established Nature Training Center which we are co-sponsoring with the Berkeley Recreation and Parks Department. After browsing over the exhibits and displays (and fortified by hot coffee and doughnuts), we braved the rain and blustering wind to watch brown pelicans, night herons and assorted ducks and shorebirds now tenanting the lake just inside the Bayshore Freeway.

Spring classes at the Nature Training Center begin **February 4,** and anyone wishing schedules or further information should call the Audubon office (549-1038 or 848-4043). — PHYLLIS LINDLEY

OBSERVATIONS

"On December 11, at 751 Balra Dr., El Cerrito, I saw a Nashville warbler at close range looking from a second story window toward the ground nearby. Gray head, prominent white eye-ring and yellow throat were all seen clearly; also noted olive-green back and absence of wing bars." — A Laurence Curl.

Paul Covel reports that a Barrow's goldeneye drake was first spotted on Oakland's Lake Merritt December 12. By December 21 there were two pairs of Barrow's goldeneye and a female hooded merganser.

Scott Terrill and Dick Erickson found a Lincoln's sparrow on Bay Farm Island, Alameda, December 12. It was also observed there by Elsie Roemer and Eleanor Hebard on December 21 and reappeared for the Christmas Count, December 26.

The Alameda section of the Oakland Christmas Count on December 26 had a total of 107 species, surpassing all previous records for that area, according to Elsie Roemer, who has kept yearly statistics for Alameda.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY NEEDS EQUIPMENT

Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt, President of the Board of Point Reyes Bird Observatory, reports that the Observatory is badly in need of several items and hopes that members and friends can help by providing funds for, or toward procurement of the following:

1. Office furniture needed includes two standard filing cabinets, two office desks and files for 3x5 and 4x6 cards.
2. Roof repair: $200 worth of roofing materials needed and will use volunteer labor to make installation.
3. Space heaters: Electric heat is proving prohibitive in cost. Needed are two or three oil heaters complete with roof-jacks for proper venting.
4. Exterior and interior paint and painting is badly needed. It is hoped that volunteers will provide the labor.
5. Critically needed is a septic tank and leaching field, as well as replacement of certain parts of the present sewer system.

The address of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory is Star Route, Lighthouse Road, Inverness, California. Annual membership is $5.00, tax deductible.

MEXICO TOUR'S BIRDING LEADER: BETH SNYDER

Leaving Nogales, Sonora, on **February 12,** a Tucson Audubon Society sponsored tour, organized by Catherine Noble, is heading south by chartered bus to Mexico City by way of Alamos, Mazatlan, San Blas (Nayarit), Guadalajara, Uruapan, Patzcuaro, etc. This is a very inclusive (Kino Missions, Toltec Ruins) trip down Mexico's West Coast Highway. Many special stops will be made for birding along the way. Come along and have the time of your life. Write or call Mrs. Beth C. Snyder, 571 Dwight Place, Berkeley, Calif. 94704. Phone 841-1747.

AUDUBON CAMP'S SUMMER SESSIONS

The Audubon Camp of the West, a vital link in the educational program of the National Audubon Society, will again offer four two-week sessions in 1966, according to an announcement from Paul M. Howard, Director. The two-week session dates will be June 26-July 8, July 10-22, July 24-August 5, and August 7-19.

The Camp is in the Wind River Range of Western Wyoming at Trail Lake Ranch, which is 12 miles southeast of Dubois. The Ranch is at an elevation of 7500 feet. The program provides first-hand experience with nature and by studying ecological relationships, a more intelligent understanding of the principles of conservation. The enrollment fee for each session is $125. This includes meals, housing, field trips and instruction. A registration fee of $10 (non-refundable) is part of the total enrollment fee and must accompany each request for registration. University credit is optional. For complete details write to P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, Calif., 91733.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Angwin, Mrs. Frances K. Sorensen; from Berkeley, Miss Wanda Muckelroy; from Oakland, Mrs. Constance Robinson, Mr. Jack Whetstone; from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Shurtz, Miss Isabel Spiriti. – MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman.*

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:	*Gift of:*
Thomas E. Bennett	Muriel Drury
Madame Malcolm Beranger	Mrs. Gwin Follis
Mrs. Harriet Burroughs	Miss Isabel Louisson and Miss Lucille Hood
Mrs. Catherine Wurster	Joan and Howell Breece
Elizabeth MacClintock	Mr. and Mrs. Copeland MacClintock
Minnie H. Young	Golden Gate Audubon Society, Dr. and Mrs. Albert Boles, Clelia A. Paroni, Louis A. Elmore, Aileen Pierson, Myra J. Browne, Evelyn Price, Ethel Richardson, Ethel L. Engebretsen, Erline Hevel, Edith D. Preston, Lucile Batdorf.
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Price	Evelyn Price
Mrs. Sue G. Rees	Rosabelle Scott, Patricia Moorshead, Mrs. Mary Whitten, Elsa Shadall
Alfred J. Pollard	Martha G. Henderson
Harold G. Peterson	Mr. and Mrs. Loris P. Smith

A gift was made to Audubon Canyon Ranch by the Alpens *in honor of* Mrs. Phyllis A. Zweigart, and a gift was made by Boy Scout Troop 254 *in honor of* Dr. Albert Boles. – Dr. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.*

The Berkeley Garden Club recently became a Sponsor of Audubon Canyon Ranch by paying for one acre.

THE VAN IN CARAVAN

On December 5 the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society visited the National Wildlife Refuge near the town of Los Banos in a caravan of about 18 cars with some 60 birders.

"One of the highlights of the trip was a Mayflower Moving Van, whose driver somehow got into the middle of the procession forming in town and assuming all these people must have known where they were going, wound up in the refuge, to the consternation of the manager, who couldn't believe an Audubon birding group would need all that lunch! The van was extricated from its predicament, and went on its way with the driver visibly confused and muttering . . ." – *The Sanderling, January* 1966

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Deadline for the March *Gull* will be February 7.

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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	A. Warren Larson	44 Rincon Road, Berkeley 7	525-9149
Vice President	Miss Bertha Underhill	35 Tamalpais Rd., Berkeley	848-0131
Vice President	Robert E. Peterson	575½ Liberty St., San Francisco	826-7079
Treasurer	Mrs. Alice D. Radcliffe	2101 Bay St., San Francisco	JO 7-5856
Recording Secretary	Miss Patricia Triggs	2038-33rd Ave., San Francisco	MO 4-8502
Corresponding Secretary	Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson	4 Willow Lane, Kensington	525-2702
Director	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco	JU 7-4163
Director	Miss Erline Hevel	425 Ulloa St., San Francisco	661-4251
Director	Robert C. DaCosta, Jr.	2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 9	931-5257
Editor	Mrs. Violet Homem	6911 Armour Dr., Oakland 11	655-8886
Field Trips Chairman	Mrs. Valeria DaCosta	2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 9	931-5257
Membership Chairman	Mrs. Marjorie N. Wilson	3839 Divisadero St., San Francisco	WE 1-2371
Program, Co-Chairmen	Richard and Mary Leinbach	201 Purdue Ave., Kensington	526-7649
Education Chairman	Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg	2585 Union, San Francisco 23	WA 1-9449
Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 10	GL 1-6267
Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont 11	OL 5-9582
Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 2	KE 6-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Distribution Chairman	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco	OV 1-7635
Audubon Canyon Ranch Fund Raising	Mrs. Myra Browne	482 Broadmoor, San Leandro	568-1921

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should ba sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California 94704 848-4042